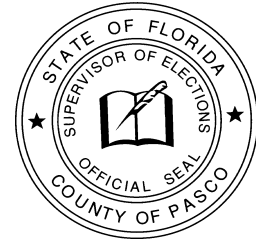


VOTE NOTES

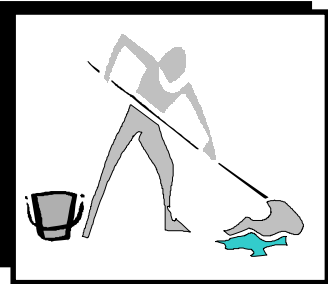
KURT S. BROWNING

**PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**



April, 2001

Quarterly Publication



SPRING CLEANING

Now that some of the daily attention to the November election has settled, the Supervisor of Elections and his staff have begun the arduous task of looking at every area of the office and determining what should “go” and what should “stay”, procedurally speaking. All staff have been assigned to work groups. These work groups were mandated to review all aspects of their assignments and see what needs to be changed in order for this office to perform more efficiently in future elections.

With an overwhelming number of calls coming into the phone bank from the polling places and into the offices from the public, it was clear that the voter registration work group needs to find ways to make voters aware of keeping their registrations current. Book closing dates for original registrations will be stressed along with targeting voters who are currently registered but have moved their residence. Voters can certainly make their voting experience a less stressful one if they will keep their voting record current.

Tentative plans to reach voters with this information include billboards, association newsletters, church bulletins, restaurant tray liners and table tents, paycheck inserts, newspaper coupons, and public service announcements.

As well, there are plans to create a “new resident packet” for all newcomers to Pasco County. The packet will include voter registration applications and election information. The information provided will make it clear to the recipient that voter registrations do not cross county or state lines. The new resident information is being provided to us by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in Tallahassee.

Lastly, this group will be organizing voter registration drives throughout the county in the months immediately preceding the elections. Many volunteers will be needed to do this effectively so workers must be recruited. If you are interested in volunteering, please call one of our offices.

There are nine other groups hard at work updating policies and procedures for their assigned areas. All of this work is being done so that this office may better serve the voters of Pasco County. It truly is kind of like spring cleaning ... digging through all the clutter, discarding what is no longer useful and replacing it with more up-to-date materials. Look for a “new and improved” Supervisor of Elections’ office!

From the Supervisor of Elections...



I recently had the privilege of serving on Governor Jeb Bush's Select Task Force on Election Procedure, Standards and Technology. What an enlightening experience. With our work completed, our Task Force has made 35 recommendations to the Governor and Legislature that will improve and strengthen our elections process in Florida. Some of the major recommendations are listed below:

- Establish minimum standards for voter education and provide funding for such education activities;
- Publish a Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to be posted at each of Florida's polling places;
- Improve recruitment and training of Florida's pollworkers;
- Improve communication between polling places and the supervisors of elections' offices;
- Provide for the nonpartisan election of the supervisor of elections;
- Prohibit political activities of County Canvassing Boards and State Election Canvassing Commission;
- Decertify punchcard voting systems, lever machines, paper ballots, central count optical scan systems and provide funding for counties to acquire new voting systems;
- Establish uniform statewide standard for counting ballots and recounts;
- Provide for a statewide on-line voter registration database;
- Provide for a uniform poll closing time throughout the state;
- Provide for provisional ballots to address the voter eligibility questions.

These are several of the recommendations that are being considered by the State Legislature. These and other issues will be discussed in detail in the July *VoteNotes*. Please call or email me if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT....?

After all of the problems and concerns surrounding the November General Election, who would have thought the next election would bring a tie?

Pasco County held its municipal election day on April 10, 2001, with three of its six municipalities actually having elections. New Port Richey, Port Richey and Zephyrhills had elections for mayor and/or council seats. New Port Richey and Zephyrhills elections ended with clear winners in all races. However, Port Richey was not so fortunate.

Port Richey had four candidates seeking two open council seats. When the ballots were tabulated on that Tuesday night, there was a clear winner for one seat. But the second seat had two candidates separated by only one vote. With a difference of less than one-half of one percent, Florida law requires an automatic machine recount.

The Supervisor of Elections' staff zeroed out the machine count and recounted the Port Richey ballot cards a second time. The result was a tie vote this time with 369 votes each for the second place candidates. The County Canvassing Board would be certifying a tie vote the next day following the normal audit procedure by the Supervisor of Elections' office.

When the County Canvassing Board gathered at noon on April 11, it had a request for a manual recount from one of the candidates to consider. The manual recount request was granted and set for April 18, 2001, at 8:00 a.m.

The manual recount took place on April 18 with the outcome the same. Both candidates once again received 369 votes each. Pursuant to Florida law, the solution for a tied vote is to draw lots. So, the city of Port Richey council race will be decided by drawing a paper out of a hat, drawing straws, flip of a coin or some other similar solution. Even in this age of modern technology, it seems that sometimes "old-fashioned" solutions are still the best!

ANNUAL REGISTRATION CONTEST

The Annual High School Voter Registration Contest was held on April 3, 2001. Eight of the county's high schools competed to register or preregister to vote the most eligible students.

The contest was held from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Wesley Chapel High School had the highest percentage of registrants and won the contest. Wesley Chapel High School will be given a plaque to display on their campus until the next competition is held next spring.

The Supervisor of Elections' office commends each school and its students for their participation.

Name of High School	Registrations Taken	Number of Eligible Students	% of Eligible Students Registered
Wesley Chapel	161	333	48%
Pasco	200	459	44%
Zephyrhills	155	472	33%
Ridgewood	205	642	32%
Land O' Lakes	157	564	28%
Gulf	146	601	24%
Hudson	129	574	22%
River Ridge	111	680	16%



quote of the quarter

“Leaders aren’t born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that’s the price we’ll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.”
—Vince Lombardi

Source: www.quotegallery.com

Did You Know ?

Americans eat 891 slices of pizza per second! And 166 acres of pizza per day!

source: burkecorp.com/funfacts.html

UPCOMING VOTING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS

"LAW WEEK"

Gulf View Mall
New Port Richey
May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th
10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

OPENHOUSE

West Pasco Government Center
7530 Little Road
New Port Richey
May 22, 2001
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
General Public Welcome Anytime
Pollworkers, please come at scheduled times

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	92,868	40.6%
Democrat	91,231	39.9%
Other	44,803	19.5%
Total	228,902	

(As of April 23, 2001)

NEW VOTING TECHNOLOGIES DEMONSTRATED

Recently, staff from the Supervisor of Elections' office conducted demonstrations of the latest voting technologies at the Pasco County Fair. A mark sense (an optical scanner) device and a touch screen system were provided by Election Systems & Software for the exhibition.

The booth was visited by nearly 300 people. Of the visitors, 269 completed a survey provided by the elections office. An overwhelming majority of the participants favored the touch screen system. For more information regarding the demonstration, log on to www.pascovotes.com/survey.htm.



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